

# **MINUTES**

## **Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 19, 2019  
Location: Belle Isle Nature Center

**Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.**

A Quorum was established

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Bud Denker

### **PRESENT FOR BIPAC**

Chair Michele Hodges

Sommer Woods

Michael Curis

Bryan Barnhill

Brad Dick

### **DNR STAFF PRESENT**

Ron Olson

Michael Terrell

Karis Floyd

Darlisa Rickman

Jacob Brown

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Approval of Minutes for July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019:**

Moved by: Michael Curis

Seconded by: Brad Dick

**Approval of Minutes for August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019:**

Moved by: Michael Curis

Seconded by: Bryan Barnhill

**Motion to approve excused absence for Bud Denker**

Moved by: Sommer Woods

Seconded by: Michael Curis

## **General Updates**

### **Ron Olson, Chief, DNR, Parks and Recreation**

Provided an update regarding the state FY2020 budget process and that there was the potential that if the budget was not adopted that the state government would shut down. That would include all state parks and recreation areas. He emphasized that we remain very optimistic that the budget would be resolved.

## **Park Updates**

### **Karis Floyd, DNR**

### **Jacob Brown, DNR**

- Looking forward to hiring 2 new lead rangers.
- The flooding has receded on the island giving relief to the workers.
- Excited about the 2 new park rangers hired.
- Will start winterizing the park after October 1.
- All bathrooms except for Shelter #7 and the Casino bathrooms will be closed for the season.
- Signage will be posted reflecting what bathrooms will be accessible.

## **DNR Law Enforcement Update**

### **Lt. Todd Szyska, DNR**

### **Lt. Michael Shaw, MSP**

- Traffic in the park has slowed significantly
- Flooding has receded.
- All has been quiet nothing to report

## **Infrastructure Updates**

**Amanda Treadwell (See attachment)**

## **Outreach and Upcoming Events**

### **Darlisa Rickman, DNR**

- Recently, 5 events have been cancelled, 51 events were relocated due to the flooding and 62 reservations were cancelled.
- B.R.A.K.E.S. Teen Defensive Driving Program will be held October 5 – 6.
- The annual Belle Isle Harvest Fest will take place on October 12 on the lawn of the Belle Isle White House.
- The Free Press Marathon will take place October 20 from 7 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## **Belle Isle Conservancy Update**

### **Chair Michelle Hodges**

- September 10 the Garden Party was held at the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory.
- The Polish the Jewel Luncheon on October 10 will aid in funding the splash pad by the park beach.
- On Friday and likely through the end of September exhibit highlighting the impact that micro plastics are having on the Great Lakes.
- The Keep Belle Isle Beautiful Initiative continues.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (3 minutes each)

#### **Michael Betzold**

Last August, after a perfunctory review period of a few weeks, the DNR approved a new contract for the Grand Prix. No one on this committee raised any objection. The outcome was never in doubt. Month after month, for years, we have come to these meetings and pointed out how this extremely intrusive corporate auto race is completely incompatible with this very precious public park and how year-round access to this island is vital to the health and welfare of Detroiters. Since you are supposed to be stewards of Belle Isle, it shouldn't even be necessary to keep telling you these things. But all we get are occasional patronizing reassurances that you are listening to us. Obviously, you're not. Or you have a wildly different view of what stewardship is-because the Grand Prix defies the core missions of the DNR, the Belle Isle Conservancy and even this committee. The contract the DNR rubber stamped 13 months ago was for three years and has a clause that reads: "The initial term of this agreement may be extended for an additional two-year term upon written notice by Permittee and written approval by Permitter." Three people at this table have the power to unilaterally pull the plug on this event: Ron Olson, Michele Hodges, Bud Denker. I'm not holding my breath on them. But if some other member went on record now, opposing any further extension of the race after 2021, it would have a huge impact. It would show someone here actually has been not just listening to the public but paying attention. The DNR's own surveys show park users overwhelmingly oppose the race. Such a declaration would take some guts and independence. But you'd have plenty of good company. Other civic and community leaders are not afraid to defy Roger Penske. You would join the citizens of this community who care deeply about their public space, their environment, their family reunions, their weddings, this place where they can run, walk, bike, or just sit by the water. We would welcome you on the right side of this issue. We aren't going to stop talking and protesting until the Grand Prix takes all its supposed benefits somewhere else, somewhere more appropriate than here.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS**

No member items at this time.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by: Michael Curis

Seconded by: Sommer Woods

Meeting Concluded: 9:55 a.m.

## **NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Belle Isle Nature Center

Belle Isle Park

Detroit, MI 48207

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Michele Hodges

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald A. Olson, Chief

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



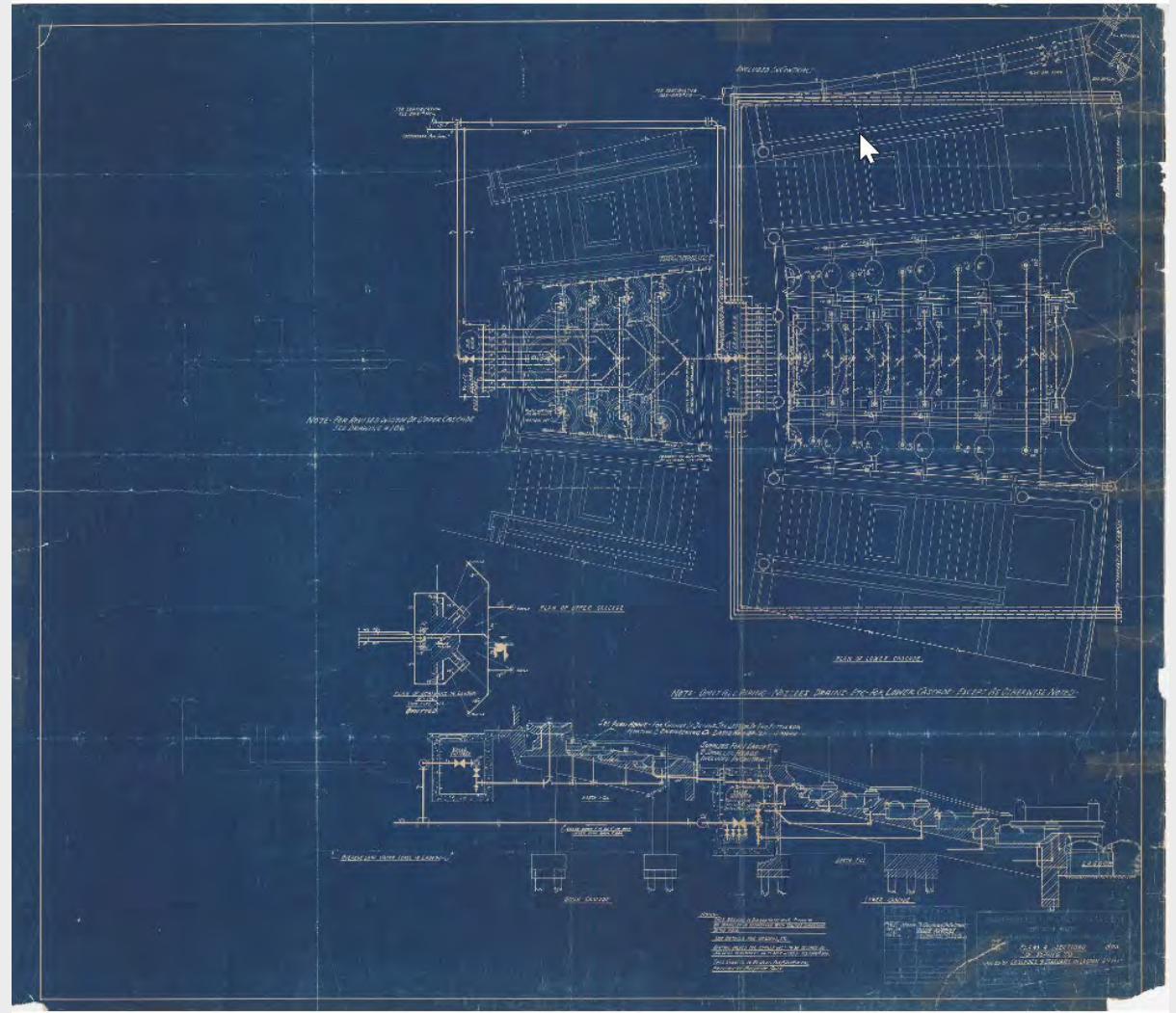
# Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update

September 19, 2019 Detroit, MI



## James Scott Memorial Fountain

- DNR has contacted Library of Congress and has coordinated with the BIC to purchase the original construction plan set of Cass Gilbert's James Scott Fountain Plans.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019





## Iron Belle Trailhead Development

- PRD Park, PRD Trails and Detroit Design Center met to plan Community Engagement
- Public Meeting will take place first week in November, followed by Stakeholder Meeting.



*Phase 2 of the Trailhead has been funded by Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**



## ASWC Structural Repairs

- Project team is scheduling to have 3 options for dome glass installed to review.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019





# Comprehensive Planning for the Belle Isle Aquarium (BIA) and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory (ASWC)

- Geothermal boring tests will take place Mid-October through Mid - November.
- 4 week testing period.



*Dome completed 1904*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**



## Detroit River Boating Access Study

- DNR and GSD will review recommendations of Report in October.
- Final report has been submitted to DNR.



*Milliken State Park is a popular harbor on the Detroit River*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**



## Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration

- Culvert Construction scheduled to start last week in October – December 2019.
- Strand will remain closed due to utilities work associated with project and DTE work along roadway.



*Bridge has been installed; asphalt has been poured*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**



## DTE Detroit Electric Conversion

- DTE installation of conduit are underway
- Transformer installation will begin this fall.
- DTE will begin work on the West end of park this fall.



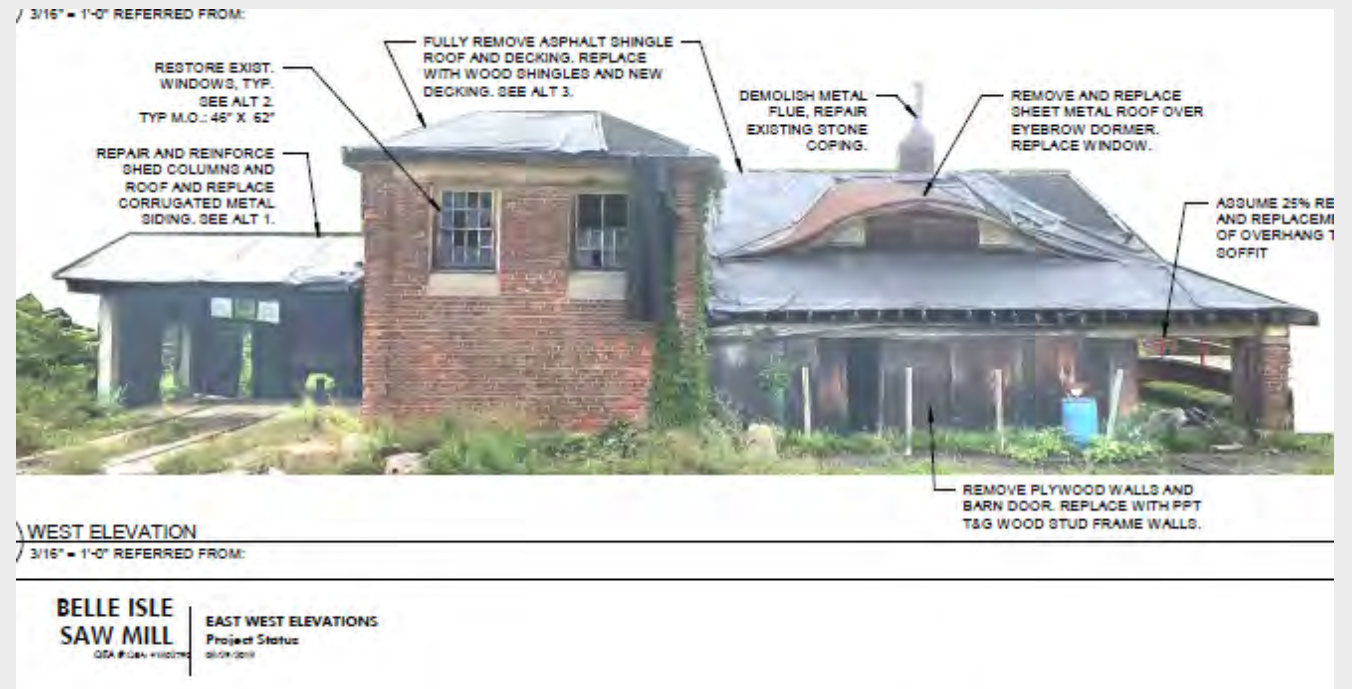
*DTE Conversion is underway*





# Sawmill Roof Replacement

- Project to be bid out fall 2019







## Fiscal Year 2019 Ongoing Projects

- Lake Okonoka Shelter and Playground Improvements – On Hold
- North Shoreline Fishing Improvements – Have begun
- (SAW) Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater and Water Assessment - Will begin September.



*Lake Okonoka Flooding*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**



## Beach Area Improvements

- Terrace Improvements to former Waterside area will be awarded this fall.
- BIC and DNR have reviewed deck alternatives to be presented at the BIC Polish the Jewel.







## Fiscal Year 2019 Athletic Field Handball Courts

- Contractor has provided pricing roof removal for Handball courts.
- DNR and DTMB anticipate approving work before the end of the month



**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**



## Piet Oudolf Garden

- Site Construction is delayed due to flooding.
- Planting Design revised in response to summer flood levels.

### Old Design vs. New Design



*Photo: Camera Jesus*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**





## Fiscal Year 2019 Boat House Assessment

- **Project Kick-off Meeting Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> occurred and assessment under way**



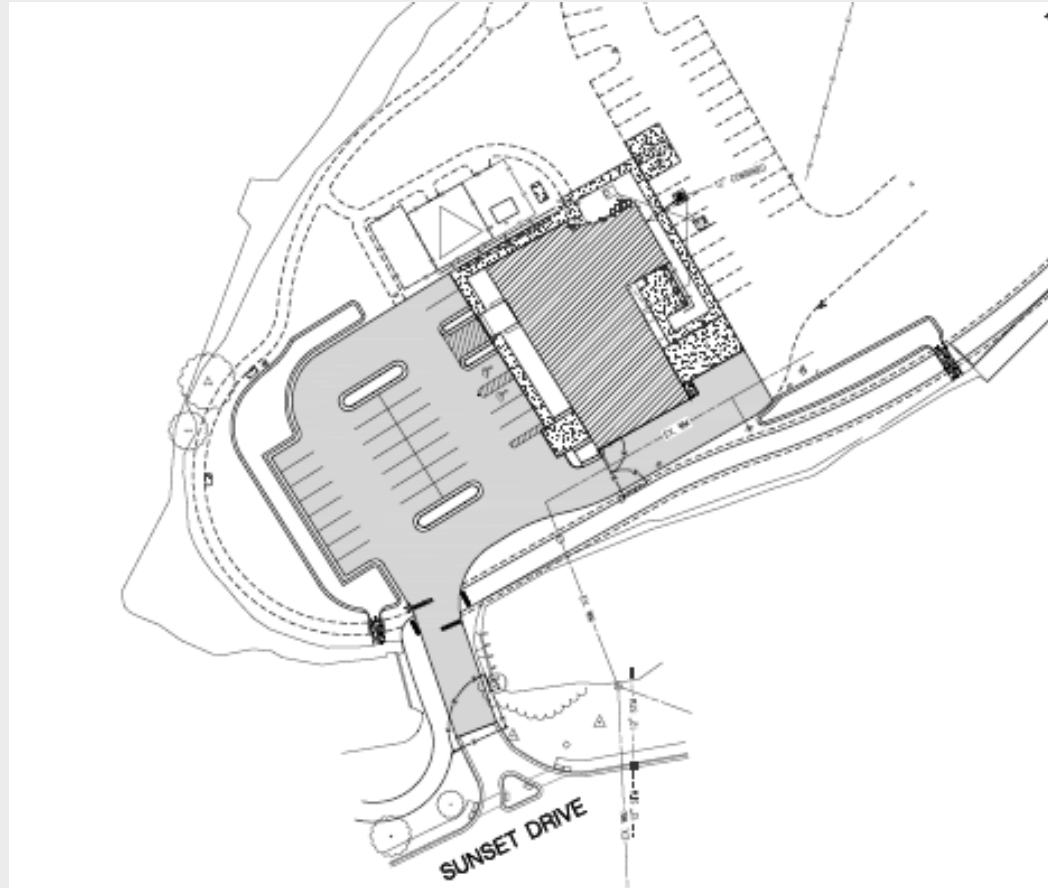
**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**





## **FY 2020 Projects Belle Isle Park Headquarters**

- **Site Plans at 50%**
- **Garage to Start Fall  
September 24th**
- **Maintenance and Operations  
Garage Design will be bid in  
FY 2020**



**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2019**